SUPPLEMENT TO THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

LONDON SATURDAY JUNE 28 1941

THE INSURANCE CAPITATION FEE

INSURANCE ACTS COMMITTEE OF THE B.M.A.

A meeting of the Insurance Acts Committee of the B.M.A., principally to discuss the matter of the insurance capitation fee, was held on June 12, under the chairmanship of Dr. E. A. GREGG. A number of resolutions from Panel Committees and B.M.A. Divisions urging that the claim for an increased fee be pursued were before the Committee.

A letter from the Ministry of Health dated May 31 stated that the Minister was not able wholly to agree with the figure of 5½d. as representing the cash value of the enhanced practice costs, but, in view of the introduction of legislation extending the insurance remuneration level from £250 to £420 per annum and the consequential increase of between 400,000 and 500,000 in the total number of insured persons entitled to medical benefit, he was prepared, as from the date of operation of the proposed legislation, if approved by Parliament, to agree to a consolidated increase of 6d. in the capitation rate, being an undetermined amount in respect of increased practice costs rounded off to take account of the new class of entrants into medical benefit. Several members of the Committee took exception to the fact that the Association had not been consulted by the Ministry as to the bringing in of the new class of insured persons, as was done when the level was raised from £150 to £250 during the last war.

The Chairman considered that a large proportion of practitioners would not seriously object to the inclusion of the new class provided that the remuneration resulting from such inclusion was comparable with that received in respect of the same class at the present time. The Minister seemed to recognize that a higher remuneration should be payable for the new class, and had suggested a moiety addition to the amount to which he was prepared to agree as representing the increase in practice expenses—the increase being spread out over the whole of the insured class—namely, the nineteen millions already insured and the half-million to be brought in. On this basis, if the 6d. offered by the Minister was regarded as 5½d. in respect of increased practice expenses, and ½d. in respect of the new entrants, the increase for the new class worked out at 1s. 8d. He thought the Committee should register a protest against the manner in which the new arrangement had been introduced, without sufficient opportunity being given to the Committee to consider the matter and, if thought necessary, to consult the profession.

A member pointed out that as it had been stated that the raising of the income limit from £250 to £420 was a recognition of the increased cost of living, doctors also should be entitled to some consideration in that respect, and this gave the Committee the opportunity to reopen the question of the capitation fee generally as relating to all insured persons. Other members supported this suggestion, and the opinion was strongly voiced that new classes should not have been brought into insurance without an opportunity being given to representatives of practitioners of raising the question of the adequacy of the capitation fee as related to this new class. It was also pointed out that in accepting the same capitation fee for this new class of persons as for those already insured, the profession—which when juveniles were brought in had pressed that the capitation fee should be the same for them as for adults—would be in a strong position to claim the same fee for dependants when these in due course were brought in.

The Committee eventually agreed to three resolutions. The first was that the Minister of Health should be informed of the Committee's dissatisfaction at his action in introducing legislation for raising the income limit for non-manual workers before the Committee had been consulted on the merits of the proposal. The second was that, as the Government had decided to legislate in order to bring into national health insurance a new group, the Committee desired to reopen the question of the adequacy of the existing basic capitation fee and to have it determined now, either as a prior issue or as part of the settlement of a general capitation fee for all insured persons, including the new group. By its third resolution the Committee decided to make no objection to the raising of the income limit for non-manual workers to £420, provided that the consolidated capitation fee in respect of both the existing and the newly added insured population was adequate. It was also agreed that a Conference of Panel Committees should be called so that practitioners could express their views on the subject, and that the Minister should be approached and informed that it was proposed to call such a conference.

Other Business

It was reported that the Ministry of Health had agreed to the Committee's claim for an increase in the ordinary portion of the Central Mileage Fund at the rate of £22,575 per annum as from July 1 next.

Representations had been made to the appropriate Government Departments in favour of medical practitioners being permitted to stock and issue war injury continuation certificates. It was found that in many cases the Assistance Board was willing to take a risk, in the interest of speedy payment, in the case of first certificates, and men were collecting such certificates from their doctors and being paid on them. After the first certificate, however, the question of title to benefit had to be ascertained before a man was given a blank certificate to take to his doctor, and there were serious difficulties in the way of allowing practitioners to stock and issue continuation certificates. The Assistance Board had agreed that if its attention was drawn to any delay in issuing medical certificates in any area to approved cases it would immediately take the matter up.

At the recent first meeting of the Medical Planning Commission the Insurance Acts Committee was asked to nominate four practitioners (one of whom should be engaged in colliery practice) for co-option to the Commission. The Committee made the following nominations: Dr. D .O. Twining (Salcombe, Devon), Dr. P. V. Anderson (Shildon, Co. Durham), Dr. I. G. Innes (Hull), and Dr. D. J. B. Wilson (High Wycombe).

The Committee agreed to advise practitioners engaged in national health insurance work to use the War Emergency Formulary now in course of preparation.

SOCIALIST MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The following resolutions were passed at the annual general meeting of the Socialist Medical Association on May 25.

Employment of Refugee Doctors

That in view of the recent appeal for a thousand doctors from the United States and the decision to employ fourth and fifth year medical students as house officers, this meeting protests most strongly against the Government's failure to make use of the medical services of the anti-Fascist refugee doctors in this country. Since only about 100 of the 1,400 now in England are being allowed to use their medical skill and training, we demand that there should be an immediate speed-up of the machinery to effect the registration and employment of eligible alien doctors, and that those now employed on demolition and construction work in the Pioneer Corps be released for work in which their medical experience can be used.

Factory Medical Officers

That this meeting considers that the policy at present supported by the Ministry of Labour and National Service of the

appointment of factory medical officers by factory managements would be improved upon, in the interests both of the workers and of the medical profession, by introducing a scheme whereby these officers would be employed by and responsible to a local or central authority and their duties co-ordinated with the work of the local medical officers of health.

EMPLOYMENT OF DOCTORS OF ENEMY NATIONALITY

The Minister of Health states (Circular 2405) that it was not intended that the phrase "total medical staff" in paragraph 2(c) of Circular 2312 (*Supplement*, March 22, p. 38) should be limited to resident medical staff. Visiting medical staff normally attached to the hospital may be included as well as the total resident medical staff employed in the hospital. In a hospital in which the medical staff includes at least two *resident* doctors of British nationality it will be permissible to employ one doctor of enemy nationality, even though the total medical staff may be less than five (in a hospital with fewer than 100 beds) or ten (in a hospital with 100 beds or over).

RATIONING OF CLOTHING AND SURGICAL GOWNS

The Board of Trade has stated that under present arrangements coupons must be surrendered for the purchase of operating gowns and white surgery coats worn by surgeons, doctors, and dentists. These garments are not covered by the term "workmen's overalls." The Board adds that the question of making some concession is under consideration. In the meantime the number of coupons required for these garments has provisionally been fixed at six. In the case of similar garments required for use in hospitals, practitioners should be able to obtain them through the special arrangements which have been authorized to enable hospitals to get supplies of certain articles coupon-free. Hospitals will give the trader a certificate specifying the goods needed and stating that they are for use in a hospital.

Correspondence

Capital Value of Practices

SIR,—A State service may be near at hand or far off, but before any such service is contemplated the first demand that the B.M.A. should make is that the capital invested in a practice should be returned, not necessarily on what the income is to-day but the actual amount paid for the practice at any time. This money represents a man's capital and often his life savings or borrowed money. No person in a democratic country should have this—probably the only source of income for his wife on his decease or capital for starting off his children in careers—confiscated. In no other business or profession is a business valued at nothing. A good practice has always been worth about two years' purchase, and for security of income it is probably worth more when compared with the purchase value in other professions and business.

Some correspondents in the *Supplement* give as their reason for seizure of capital values the fact that better hours and conditions of work, holidays, locumtenents in illness, and a pension will more than compensate. The opposite view can now be expressed. Many practitioners make by hard work over £2,000 a year; the most we shall be likely to get under a State service will be £1,200 to £1,500. It must be logic that capital should be returned if one is forcibly to have one's income reduced and one's freedom in work removed. No pension can compensate these two.—I am, etc.,

E. H. WALKER, M.B., B.S.

Torrington, Devon, June 15.

Why Save Petrol?

SIR,—Why save petrol? At this stage of the war it is proposed to hold a parade and march past of A.R.P. services in this area, at which the Regional Commissioner will take the salute. Half the authorities concerned were opposed to the idea, which was proceeded with on the casting vote of the chairman—a county official. It is proposed to have six rehearsals, which will involve sending eight or nine vehicles from this district a matter of twenty miles on seven occasions; and the seven other authorities will have to do likewise. There will be the cars of hordes of officials from the county authority, those of the heads of the local authorities and their clerks to be presented, and the commissioner's car will have to bring him from his Olympian abode, and we shall march past him in completely bogus array in uniforms borrowed for the occasion, as we have not yet been equipped with our own.

All this would be mildly amusing were it not for the fact that, all told, over 500 gallons of petrol are going to be wasted on a project whose value towards the war effort is exactly *nil*. I must confess that when I think of the difficulty I have in getting a bare minimum of petrol to carry on my practice and that here is enough petrol to last me for nearly a year being thrown away on a completely fatuous performance such as this, rage and disgust are my uppermost feelings and not amusement.—I am, etc.,

Stokesley, Yorks, June 14. H. M. MACGILL.

Postgraduate News

The Fellowship of Medicine announces the following courses for Final F.R.C.S. candidates: (1) Revision course at Royal Cancer Hospital, daily, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 7 to August 1; (2) Practical operative surgery course at Royal Cancer Hospital, Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 2 p.m., July 7 to August 1; (3) Week-end course of clinical demonstrations, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, July 12 and 13, at King George Hospital, Ilford; (4) Urology course at Colindale Hospital, Thursdays, 2.30 p.m., August 7 to 28.

A series of lectures on "War Surgery of the Chest" will be given at the British Postgraduate Medical School from Monday to Friday, July 7 to 11 (both dates inclusive), beginning at 10 a.m. daily. The fee for the course is £1 1s. Officers of the armed forces wishing to attend without payment should apply through their respective Director-Generals. Applications for tickets should be addressed to the Dean of the British Postgraduate Medical School, Ducane Road, W. Further war surgery courses will be held as follows: Beginning Monday, July 21, "War Surgery of the Nervous System"; August 11 to 22, "Operative Surgery in Wartime"; Beginning Monday, September 1, "War Surgery of the Extremities."

WEEKLY POSTGRADUATE DIARY

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1, Wimpole Street, W.—*St. Mary (Islington) Hospital*, Highgate Hill, N.—Wed., 2 p.m., Final F.R.C.S. Clinical Course.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

Annual Meeting of the Society.—Tues., 5 p.m. To elect Officers and Council.

DAVYHULME MILITARY HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—Thurs., 3 p.m. Mr. Graham Bryce: Injuries of the Chest. Medical men and women in any of the Services, including civilian, will be welcomed.

VACANCIES

EXAMINING FACTORY SURGEONS.—The following vacant appointments are announced: Golspie (Sutherlandshire); Coventry East (Warwickshire). Applications to the Chief Inspector of Factories, 28, Broadway, S.W.1, by July 1.

APPOINTMENTS

DUTHIE, E. W., M.B., Ch.B., Examining Factory Surgeon for the Cruden District (Aberdeenshire).

KITCHIN, KATHLEEN, M.B., B.S., Advisory Medical Psychologist, Wiltshire County Council.

SPROTT, NORMAN A., D.M., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent, St. Columba's Hospital, Swiss Cottage, N.W.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

The charge for inserting announcements under this head is 10s. 6d. This amount should be forwarded with the notice, authenticated with the name and address of the sender, and should reach the Advertisement Manager not later than the first post Tuesday morning to ensure insertion in the current issue.

MARRIAGES

O'DONNELL—DILLON.—On April 14, at Church of Christ the King, Salthill, Galway, Michael O'Donnell, M.D., M.R.C.P.I., to Moya Dillon, M.B.

STRATON—ADAMS CLARK.—On June 13, 1941, at Exmouth, very quietly, Capt. Charles Noy Straton, R.A., son of the late Lieut.-Col. C. H. Straton, R.A.M.C., and Mrs. Straton, of 2, Trinfield Avenue, Exmouth, to Evangeline Adams Clark, M.D., B.S., daughter of the late William Adams Clark, M.D., and Mrs. Adams Clark, of Penge.

DEATH

HARVEY.—On June 17, 1941, at 4, Winn Road, Southampton, aged 67.

Local and E.M.S. hospital authorities are asked in a Ministry of Health circular to draw the attention of medical staff and others to the urgent need for conserving petrol. A reduction has had to be made in supplies, and everything possible should be done to see that the use of motor vehicles is restricted to the minimum necessary for the effective working of the hospital.

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Practices and Partnerships for Disposal

Full particulars sent free.

1 HOME COUNTY.—F.R.C.S. required for SHARE about £1,000 p.a. in Residential District. Cottage Hospital. Premium 2 years' purchase.

2 S. MIDLANDS.—PARTNERSHIP in Country Practice about £5,000 p.a. Panel over 2,000. One-third share two-years' purchase on terms.

3 DEATH VACANCY.—London, S.W.11. Income last year £2,575. Panel (1.4.'41) 3,648. House to rent.

4 DEATH VACANCY.—East Anglia.—PRACTICE about £2,700 in Country District. Panel about 1,400. Nice old 15th century house for sale.

5 EAST ANGLIA.—PRACTICE about £2,500 p.a. in Country Town. Panel 1,500. Georgian house for sale. Reasonable premium.

6 EAST ANGLIA.—PARTNERSHIP Country Practice in beautiful part. Nice house for sale or rent. Share producing £1,500 at first. Premium 1½ years' purchase. Short assistantship if desired.

7 SOMERSET.—Easily worked Country PRACTICE £2,000 p.a. Nice house in grounds of 9 acres for sale. Safe area. Premium 1½ years' purchase.

8. DEATH VACANCY.—Ear, Nose and Throat PRACTICE in Town about 50 miles from London. Receipts last year about £1,000. Charming house to rent.

9 DEATH VACANCY. — Surrey. — PRACTICE doing £550-£600 in pleasant district about 10 miles from London. Panel about 400. Corner house (3 bedrooms) to rent.

10 DEATH VACANCY.—London, S.W.1.—PRACTICE with Panel about 1,080 and private practice. Premises to rent on lease.

11 WEST RIDING TOWN.—PRACTICE averaging £1,875 p.a. Panel 1,500. House with garage and garden to rent.

12 WEST KENT.—PARTNERSHIP in Country Practice. Nice house with large garden to rent. Share about £1,400 p.a. Premium £2,500.

13 MIDLAND TOWN.—PRACTICE £1,080 p.a. in Neutral Area on outskirts. Panel 1,530. Beautiful modern house to rent. Great scope. Premium £1,000 or reasonable offer.

14 LONDON, N.W.6.—PARTNERSHIP in Practice £2,800. Good appointments and Panel 3,000. Accommodation available. Premium one-half share £2,100.

15 HANTS.—PRACTICE doing about £700 (as against £1,300 in peace-time) in Country Town near Coast. Panel 875. Charming house and garden for sale or rent.

16 SOMERSET.—Pleasant Country Town.—PRACTICE over £1,800. Panel over 1,800 and Appointments £260. Convenient detached house to rent.

17 N. WALES COAST.—Middle-class PRACTICE £1,400 p.a. Panel 400. House to rent. Premium 1¼ years' purchase.

18 NOTTINGHAM.—PRACTICE over £400 p.a. Panel 450. Rent of house £60 p.a. Premium £350.

19 SOM.—MEDICAL WOMAN or MAN required for SHARE about £1,575 p.a. gross in steadily increasing middle-class Practice in good town. Attractive, modernized and easily run house to rent. Premium about £3,000 by easy arrangement.

20 YORKS (W.R.).—PARTNERSHIP in middle- and better-class. Practice about £1,700 in residential area of Bradford. Small panel. House available to rent. One-half share with succession in 2-5 years. Small hospital.

21 DEVON.—PRACTICE about £1,200 p.a. in suburb of Coastal Town. Panel 700. Corner house to rent.

22 N. WALES.—Steadily increasing PRACTICE about £950 in small Country town on borders of Carnarvon and Merioneth. Panel over 700 (club about £100 p.a.). Reasonable premium.

23 SUSSEX.—Country PRACTICE, close popular Watering Place. Receipts past year £2,000 about. Good house. Panel about 1,500 and appointments.

24 BERKS.—Residential Town. Receipts last year £2,758. Panel 2,700. House to rent. Premium £4,500 or nearest offer.

25 LONDON, S.W.6.—PRACTICE, about £800. Panel 1,080. Nice house to rent. Moderate premium on easy terms.

26 HERTS.—PARTNERSHIP in Practice doing about £2,600 in Market Town. Panel 1,600. Accommodation available. One-third share (increased in 3 yrs.) at 2 year's purchase; by arrangement if desired.

27 LONDON, N.W.7.—PRACTICE in residential district. Receipts 1940 £627. Panel about 600. Specially built house with garage and very good garden to rent. Premium £500 or near offer.

28 S. COAST. — Non-dispensing PRACTICE £1,600 p.a. in favourite town. Panel 969. Detached double-fronted house for sale or rent. Premium 1¾ years' purchase.

29 HANTS.—PARTNERSHIP (with succession) in good-class non-dispensing Practice over £2,000 p.a. in residential Coast Town. No Panel. Very nice house for sale. Premium one-half share two years' purchase. Or Practice would be sold outright.

30 WEST KENT.—PARTNERSHIP in Practice in very nice Country District. Good house with ample accommodation, central heating, electric light, etc. Fruit and vegetable garden for sale. Share about £1,250 at 2 years' purchase.

31 BEDS. — PARTNERSHIP in compact and easily worked Practice in flourishing town. Substantial Panel. Working expenses low. Detached house for sale or rent. Share nearly £1,800 p.a. at 2 years' purchase by arrangement.

32 GLOS.—PRACTICE about £1,500 p.a. in rural district near Bristol. Panel 1,000. House for sale or rent. Premium 1½ years' purchase by arrangement.

33 N. DEVON.—Unopposed Country PRACTICE nearly £1,100 excluding at least £300 from evacuees. (Panel about £560 p.a.) House rent £35 p.a. Premium 1¼ years' purchase.

34 SUSSEX COAST.—PARTNERSHIP in steadily increasing Practice. Receipts 1940, £4,200. Panel 2,100. Detached house, two garages and beautiful garden and orchard for sale or rent. Scope. One-half share for disposal.

35 LANCS and YORKS BORDER.—PRACTICE, about £2,600 p.a. in small town. Panel 2,500 Detached house, garage and good garden for sale or rent. Premium 1½ years' purchase.

36 KENT (nr. Tunbridge Wells).—PRACTICE nearly £1,300 p.a. in beautiful Country District. Panel 1,180. House (5 bedrooms), garage and garden, main drainage. Premium £1,500.

37 E. YORKS.—PARTNERSHIP in country Town. Practice over £6,000 p.a. Small Panel. Fees 5s. to £1 10s. Delightful house in beautiful garden for sale. Premium one-half share 2 years' purchase.

38 RESIDENTIAL TOWN IN THE WEST.—PARTNERSHIP increasing Practice £3,226 p.a. over last 3 years. Panel 3,420. One-third share at 2 years' purchase. Preliminary Assistantship.

39 WEST OF ENGLAND.—PARTNERSHIP in good-class non-dispensing Practice in first-rate res. town. Receipts av. £2,987 p.a. No panel. Choice of 2 houses. Prem. one-half share 2-yrs.' purchase.

40 PLEASANT NORTH-WEST EVACUATION AREA.—TWO-FIFTHS SHARE in rapidly increasing Practice £2,100 p.a. (Clubs £310 p.a. and Panel £2,830.) Premium £1,350. One months' preliminary Assistantship.

41 MIDLAND TOWN. — PARTNERSHIP in mixed Practice about £7,750 p.a. Panel 7,800. Modern well-built house, garage and large garden (optional). One-third share at 1½ years' purchase. Premium £3,750 cash.

42 MIDDLESEX.—PARTNERSHIP in middle- and upper-middle-class Practice. About £2,750 p.a. in residential district. Panel about 2,000. Suitable house. Premium one-half share 1½ years' purchase.

43 HERTS.—PARTNERSHIP in Practice, about £6,000 p.a. in residential country district. Panel about 3,000. House for sale or rent. Premium 7/23rds share 1¾ years' purchase, part by instalments.

44 LONDON, N.—PRACTICE about £1,000 p.a. in pleasant part. Panel 940. House to rent. Cottage Hospital near. Premium £1,000.

45 DEATH VACANCY (Glamorgan coast).—PRACTICE about £1,300 in rapidly developing industrial (neutral) area. Panel 1,250. Pleasantly situated house.

46 HERTFORDSHIRE. — PARTNERSHIP in good-class country town. Practice about £4,600 p.a. Panel 2,800. One-third share at first on terms to be arranged. Preliminary assistantship.

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